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Reidrich

This fan-fiction article, **Reidrich**, was written by [Adalwulf of Aedirn](#) and [Witcher190](#). Please do not edit this fiction without the writers' permission.

This article is an expansion based on a canon element. For canon information, follow the link to The Witcher Wiki: [Reidrich](#).

Hagos Girma Zewedu (1090 - 1170s), better known as **Reidrich** by the Nordlings and called by Wolf Adepts as **Reid** due to both his naturalization as a Nordling and the difficulty in pronouncing his real name properly, was a mage of Zangvebarian origin who, by the 1170s, was one of the last mages who knew the formulae for the trials such as the [Trial of the Grasses](#) and the [Trial of the Dreams](#), which were necessary to create [witchers](#). His death during the Kaer Morhen Pogrom, along with that of the other mages present in the fortress, was one of the various reasons for the decline and eventual extinction of the [School of the Wolf](#).

Reidrich

Biographical Information

Real Name	Hagos Girma Zewedu
Birthplace	Tambara, Zangvebar
Status	Dead
Died	1170s
Deathplace	Kaer Morhen, Kaedwen

Physical Description

Race	Human
Gender	Male
Hair	White
Eyes	Brown
Skin	Dark

Political Information

Profession	Mage
Affiliation	School of the Wolf

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Alias(es)	Reidrich Reid (by Wolf Adepts)
Nationality	Zangvebarian Kaedweni (naturalized)
Relationships	
Father	Unknown
Mother	Unknown
Other	Dagobert Sulla (master)

Contents

[[hide](#)]

1. Biography
 - 1.1. Early life (1090s - early 1100s)
 - 1.2. Studies at Ban Ard and Life before the School of the Wolf (1100s -1110s)
 - 1.3. Functions at Kaer Morhen (1110s -1170s)
 - 1.4. Reidrich magically braces Kaer Morhen against a Source flair up (1131)
 - 1.5. The Witcher Tournament (1150s)
2. Death (1170s)
3. Abilities
 - 3.1. Trained Abilities
 - 3.2. Magical Abilities
4. Appearance
5. Personality



Biography

There are few records of both the early life and the later life of Reidrich, partly because the mage did not like to talk about his private life, and partly because the majority of his few diaries (since he preferred writing about medical, alchemical, and scientific advancements) were lost during the Kaer Morhen Pogrom.

Reidrich was known to be a private and reclusive individual, which further contributed to the scarcity of personal details about his life. He rarely spoke of his origins or his journey to becoming a mage, and his focus was predominantly on his work and research. This reticence, combined with the loss of his diaries, left significant gaps in the historical record concerning his personal history and motivations.

Additionally, after joining the School of the Wolf, he was declared a rogue mage by the Brotherhood of Sorcerers. This declaration marked him as an outlaw in the eyes of the magical community, and he was subsequently pursued by their police force, the Praetorship. The Praetorship's relentless pursuit forced Reidrich to

confine himself to Kaer Morhen and its immediate surroundings, drastically limiting his movements and interactions with the outside world. This constant threat made him extremely cautious and vigilant, always wary of potential spies or attacks from the Brotherhood.

Most of what is known about him, therefore, comes from the few surviving records and third-party sources, such as the witches of the School of the Wolf with whom he lived during the 60 years he served the school.

Early life (1090s - early 1100s) 🔮

By his appearance, it is obvious that he came from Zangvebar, but it's unclear when he arrived in Nordling lands, why he came, or why he eventually stayed and didn't return to his homeland. It is known that he was born in the city of Tamara, the capital of Zangvebar, during the 1090s. His family background is unknown, but there are three prevalent theories based on certain historical events during Reidrich's early life.

The first theory suggests that he was the son of one of the traders who first made contact with the North during this period. These traders played a significant role in establishing safe trade routes and commercial relationships between Zangvebar and the Nordlings. They were the first to bring the various goods that would make the Zangvebarians known in Nordling ports, such as mimosa bark, spices, precious stones, and even enslaved cynocephali. If Reidrich were the son of such a trader, it would explain his early exposure to the Northern lands and his eventual decision to stay, possibly due to the trading opportunities and the growing Zangvebarian presence in Nordling ports.

The second theory posits that Reidrich was the son of a Zangvebarian criminal who sought refuge in the North. In this scenario, his family might have fled Zangvebar to escape legal repercussions or political turmoil, finding a new life among the Nordlings. This theory is less widely accepted but offers an alternative explanation for his presence in the North.

The third theory is the most accepted. This theory proposes that Reidrich belonged to the Mabaharia ethnic group and was a second cousin of the Royal Family of Zangvebar, the Aksum Dynasty. According to this theory, his father and him were sent to the North on a diplomatic mission, representing Zangvebarian interests to forge alliances with Nordling kingdoms.

How he ended up as a mage remains unclear. It is possible that, during his time in the North, his innate magical abilities were discovered. This is supported by the incident of Adalwulf's Source flare-up in 1131, during which Reidrich held the structural integrity of the keep for a time without too much trouble until the other resident mages and the druid present in Kaer Morhen arrived to help. This suggested that he was possibly a Source himself as well.

If Reidrich was indeed a Source, he may have been kidnapped by the mages of the Brotherhood when they detected his abilities. The Brotherhood of Sorcerers, always vigilant for new talent, might have taken him under their wing, albeit forcibly, to train him in the magical arts. This abduction theory could explain why Reidrich, despite his proficiency in the Common Tongue, retained a slight accent, as reported by the Wolf Witches. The accent was a vestige of his early years in Zangvebar, a subtle but enduring marker of his origins. This, as well, would explain his naturalization as a Kaedweni later on and thus a Nordling, something probably granted with the help of the Brotherhood.

Studies at Ban Ard and Life before the School of the Wolf (1100s - 1110s) 🔮

As with all male mages in the Northern Kingdoms, it is known that Reidrich studied at Ban Ard in Kaedwen. His name appears in the records, but little else is

known about his time there. Due to his later status as a rogue mage, most records were likely destroyed by the Brotherhood of Sorcerers, both as punishment and to prevent other mages from following his rebellious example. Additionally, his reserved nature and his status as a foreigner, despite eventually being naturalized, should be taken into account.

From the few recovered details, it is known that he specialized in [Earth Magic](#). He excelled in areas such as biology and genetics, where he obtained honors, which eventually earned him a position at Rissberg Castle upon graduation. It is likely that at Rissberg, he learned about the creation of witchers, the order from which the six main schools emerged after its dissolution, and eventually sought and learned the process of creating them, which led him to the School of the Wolf. However, how he joined the School of the Wolf remains unknown. It is believed that another mage, Dagobert Sulla, who would eventually reside in Kaer Morhen like him, recruited Reidrich. It is likely that Reidrich was recruited around the same time Dagobert was at Rissberg Castle, before both went against the Brotherhood's authority. Some postulate that their rebellion was due to the inhumane practices carried out there, reinforced by Dagobert's regret over creating the first frightener. It is probable that something similar happened with Reidrich in other areas during his time at the castle, eventually leading him to join Kaer Morhen after Dagobert was accepted by the Wolves. Some claim that Reidrich even traveled with Dagobert to [Zerrikania](#), where they both studied alchemy under the supervision of masters from that country. What is known for certain is that one day he appeared as Dagobert's apprentice at the fortress, and that was it. At least, that's what Vesemir remembered when asked by the surviving Wolves in the 13th century.

Functions at Kaer Morhen (110s - 117os) ⚔

At Kaer Morhen, his functions were mainly three, although the third is in doubt. He supervised both the Trial of the Grasses and its aftermath alongside Dagobert. He also worked on the development of new witcher potions and decoctions on his own. Some rumors, solely based on the fact that he was at Rissberg, suggest he created more submissive artificial monsters used by the Master Witchers to test the Wolf Adepts without necessarily killing them. However, this last function is just a rumor and there is no evidence beyond the aforementioned fact that he was at a castle famous for the creation of artificial creatures.

Reidrich magically braces Kaer Morhen against a Source flair up (1131) ⚔

During an altercation between some of the apprentices, one of them a boy named [Adalwulf](#) emits a large flare-up of latent magical power which injured the other two boys and threatened the structural integrity of the keep, if not for the efforts of the resident mages Dagobert Sulla, Reidrich, and the druid Jarrow, the keep might have collapsed, following the incident the boy in question was placed under observation by the resident mages.

The Witcher Tournament (1150s) ⚔

Unfortunately, Reidrich was forbidden from attending what would later be revealed as the trap known as the First Witcher Tournament, despite his strong desire to go. Even though leaving the fortress posed significant risks, he believed the Wolf Witchers needed a mage, both to heal potential wounds and to help them defend themselves if something went wrong. And something did go wrong.

During this period, the Schools of the Wolf and the [Cat](#) were funded by Kaedweni monarchs. Student exchanges occurred, and some older witchers formed friendships. However, mistrust among most of the students often led to brawls and arguments.

King Radowit II, under the influence of his court mage Astrogarus and the Kaedweni druids, perceived the witcher schools as a threat to his rule, both from

within his kingdom and externally. He viewed them as potential armies that could threaten his position, whether from political rivals within his nation or from foreign powers. To undermine these schools, he organized the tournament and pitted them against each other in a scheme to incite their mutual destruction. His manipulations led Master Treyse of the Cats to engage in a plot against the Wolves. During the Witcher Tournament, Treyse and some of his students ambushed the unsuspecting Wolves. After most of the Wolves were killed, the King ordered his soldiers to eliminate the surviving Cats as well.

Reidrich, who had been confined to Kaer Morhen, was left to deal with the fallout from this scheme. Despite his absence from the tournament, he was deeply affected by the news of the massacre. The loss of his colleagues and the betrayal of the Cats weighed heavily on him. In the aftermath, he focused on maintaining the remaining knowledge of the witcher trials and mutations.

Death (1170s)



Reidrich died during the Kaer Morhen Pogrom at the hands of Vesemir, while valiantly defending the fortress's laboratory. In a cunning and ruthless move, [Gilcrest](#) and her mage allies unleashed a powerful and intricate illusion. This spell was designed to turn Reidrich and the other mages of Kaer Morhen into the attacking mages. This illusion was so meticulously crafted that it blurred the lines between reality and deception, making it nearly impossible for those inside Kaer Morhen to discern friend from foe.

As Reidrich attempted to hold his ground in the laboratory, the illusion caused Vesemir, who was fighting to repel the invaders, to perceive Reidrich as an enemy combatant. The chaos and confusion of the battle further compounded Vesemir's difficulty in recognizing the mage. Believing that the attackers had breached this critical part of the fortress, Vesemir, driven by his commitment to protecting Kaer Morhen, struck out against Reidrich, unknowingly ending the life of a man who had been both an ally and a key member of his school. Traumatized by the event, as well as by the many deaths he had witnessed in his lifetime (both prior to and following the Pogrom, including those during the Trial of the Grasses), Vesemir became deeply wary of mutating any child ever again as he grew older in the position of grandmaster.

The knowledge about the trials gradually vanished after the Pogrom. Reidrich and the other mages had meticulously documented the process in their notes, which made it possible that the last children were mutated around the 1230s. However, this crucial knowledge began to slip away after that period due to several compounding factors. The lack of maintenance of key facilities, such as the laboratory at Kaer Morhen, played a significant role. As the physical infrastructure deteriorated, so did the preservation of the mages' records. Additionally, Vesemir's trauma from the Pogrom, coupled with his growing disillusionment, the fact that he was only a fence instructor, and his reluctance to continue the practice of mutation due to the risk posed, further contributed to the loss.

This lack of maintenance was also key in the creation of the Salamandra mutants, as the knowledge of the witcher mutations was fragmentary when the Salamandra stole the secrets of witcher mutagens in 1271, creating the aberrations for which the criminal organization became known.

Abilities



Trained Abilities

- [Mutagenic Alchemy](#)

Magical Abilities

- [Earth Magic](#)

Appearance ⚡

Reidrich looked like an older man in his fifties or seventies, unlike many male Nordling mages who had a forty or late thirties appearance through magical means. This likely means that at a later point in his life, he ingested the [Mandrake Longevity Potion](#). He probably acquired this look since, in his land, older men are considered more respected. Despite his age, he had a dignified and commanding presence, characterized by his dark skin, indicative of his origins from the distant land of [Zangvebar](#). He possessed white hair, styled in long, thick braids that fell past his shoulders, complemented by a neatly groomed white beard that framed his face, adding to his distinguished appearance.

His facial features were strong and defined, with a high forehead and pronounced cheekbones. The lines on his face signified both age and the many challenges he had encountered over the years, conveying a sense of resilience and strength. His look was described by many as sharp and perceptive, reflecting a depth of knowledge and probably a lifetime of experience. His usually stern expression suggested to many, especially to Wolf Adepts a serious and contemplative nature, befitting a man dedicated to his scholarly and magical pursuits.

Reidrich typically wore a robe that was both practical and suitable for a mage residing in Kaer Morhen. His attire was simple yet elegant, reflecting his focus on his work rather than on the personal opulence typical of Nordling mages, both male and female. This practical attire also highlighted his preference for utility over luxury, a trait that set him apart from many of his contemporaries in the magical community.

Personality ⚡

Reidrich could be described as someone who was characterized by a combination of introspection, dedication, and isolation. His preference for privacy meant he seldom engaged in personal discussions or shared his background, opting instead to immerse himself in his research and the magical arts. This reclusiveness was compounded by his status as a rogue mage, which necessitated a cautious and guarded demeanor.

Despite his secretive nature, Reidrich was known for his profound commitment to his work. This commitment was evident in his reluctance to abandon his responsibilities, even in the face of grave danger.

Reidrich's reserved personality also stemmed from his position as a foreign mage in a predominantly Nordling environment. His background as a Zangvebarian, combined with his rogue status, likely contributed to his feelings of estrangement and his choice to remain secluded. His accent and cultural differences set him apart, and he seemed to have accepted this isolation as part of his fate, focusing instead on the tasks at hand.

His demeanor was perceived as stern or aloof, yet those who worked closely with him recognized his underlying respect for the traditions and practices of the witches. His serious and contemplative nature was not born of disdain but of a deep respect for the gravity of his work and the responsibilities it entailed.

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